

assistance in those areas.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you're saying that the Labor Department would be asked to do what Social Services currently does?

SENATOR WARNER: No, no, no. What I was saying is the Department of Labor has 35 statewide offices...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mmm, hmm.

SENATOR WARNER: ...as opposed to the Social Services having 100 statewide offices and I've only used that as a comparison that the Department of Labor can adequately service the citizens across the state with 35. There may be a similar rationale that Social Services could also adequately serve with something less than 100 which they currently have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: To try to use an analogy, Senator Warner, let's say we have two hospitals or two types of medical service that are offered. One would be heart transplants and the other would be to treat general diseases. Which hospital do you think would be likely to have the most patients? The one that deals in the more specialized area, obviously. That's the point that I'm trying to make. I'm wondering if the nature of the work done by the Labor Department is substantially different from that done by the Department of Social Services. For example, if there is a catastrophe of some kind, a flood, a tornado or some other kind of disaster that would put a lot of people out of their homes, maybe deprive them of food and other essentials that they need looked after. They couldn't go to the Department of Labor for something on that but they would need some social services assistant. So are you saying that you don't think the public that is currently being served by these offices would be hurt or inconvenienced seriously as a result of these cuts?

SENATOR WARNER: I'm trying to state it the other way, Senator Chambers, in that if the Department of Labor can adequately and is adequately serving with 35 locations in the state, perhaps a 100 for Social Services is more than what would be needed. I do not attempt to compare that they are performing similar duties, because obviously they are not. It's an issue of point of contact, is 100 necessary when 35 is a statewide responsibility that provides the necessary contact points there.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I don't think the cut ought to be made and I wish that we could